

What Is the Earned Income Tax Credit?

- The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a refundable federal income tax credit eligible to low- and moderate-income working individuals and families, created to partially balance out the weight of social security taxes and to provide an additional reason for individuals to seek and maintain employment.
- **A taxpayer must meet certain requirements and file a tax return to qualify for this credit, even if his or her income is below that which mandates filing a tax return.**
- Depending on income, EITC can be worth as much as several thousand dollars, and can boost a family's income by nearly 35 percent.
- For tax year 2007, earned income and adjusted gross income must each be less than:
 - \$37,783 (\$39,783 if married and filing jointly) with two or more qualifying children
 - \$33,241 (\$35,241 if married and filing jointly) with one qualifying child
 - \$12,590 (\$14,590 if married and filing jointly) with no qualifying children
- EITC provides more immediate financial assistance to working individuals and families in need than any other effort.
- **The deadline to file taxes for the 2007 tax year is October 15, 2008.**

Where Can I Find Help to File My Taxes?

- Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) programs around the state offer **free tax preparation** services to individuals and families with low or limited income, individuals with disabilities, senior citizens and military personnel and their families.
- Although many VITA sites close after the regular April 15 filing deadline each year, there are a few sites still open until Oct. 15.
- **To find a VITA site, visit the Community Information and Referral Web site at www.cir.org and click on tax preparation information in the Special Announcements. Or call CIR at 602-263-8856.**
- Residents can also **check with their local United Way** for information on free tax preparation services in the community or **visit www.AZ211.gov**, click on Find Help and search for Tax Preparation.

What do I Need to Take to a VITA site?

- Picture ID for taxpayer and spouse
- Social Security cards or ITIN cards/numbers for all household members
- Proof of income, including W-2's and 1099 forms
- Name, address and tax ID# of child care provider
- Amount of money paid to childcare provider last year
- Account and routing numbers for direct deposit
- Copy of last year's tax return
- If filing jointly, both adults must be present to sign the return.

What About the Recent Economic Stimulus Payments?

- **A tax return must also be filed to receive the economic stimulus rebate**, which is between \$300 and \$600 for a single taxpayer and between \$600 and \$1200 for a married couple.
- Many people who do not regularly file a tax return may qualify.
- You may be eligible if you have a valid social security number, cannot be claimed as a dependent on someone else's tax return, and have qualifying income of at least \$3,000.